

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Bernard A. Hawkins,  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2015-8**

**ORDER**

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on January 12, 2016, pursuant to Commission Regulation 1011, and the Commission having considered the Complaint herein, the arguments of counsel, and the proposed Information Resolution and Settlement, which is incorporated by reference herein, it is hereby:

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED**


THAT, the Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement as submitted;

THAT, the Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement;

THAT, the Respondent violated Commission Regulation 36-14-5014(a); and

THAT, the Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

ENTERED as an Order of this Commission,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Dated: January 12, 2016

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BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Bernard A. Hawkins,  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2015-8**

**INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT**

The Respondent, Bernard A. Hawkins, and the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (“Commission”) hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matter as follows:

**I. FINDINGS OF FACT & ADMISSIONS**

1. The Respondent was first elected to the Smithfield Town Council (“Town Council”), a municipal elected position, in November 2006, and has served continuously in said capacity at all times relevant hereto.

2. In October 2013, the Respondent, while an elected member of the Town Council, applied and interviewed for the position of Director of Buildings and Grounds for the Smithfield School Department (“School Department”).

3. The Respondent admitted publicly at a Town Council meeting on October 6, 2015, that he had sought and applied for the aforementioned position with the School Department.

4. The Respondent was not offered the position of Director of Buildings and Grounds for the School Department.

**II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. As a municipal elected official, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government (“Code of Ethics”), pursuant to Rhode General Laws § 36-14-4(1).

2. The Respondent violated Commission Regulation 36-14-5014(a) by seeking employment with the Smithfield School Department while serving as an elected member of the Smithfield Town Council.

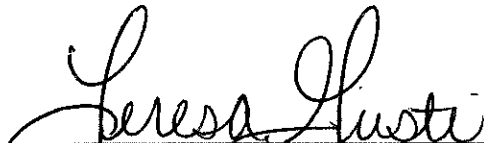
### III. SETTLEMENT

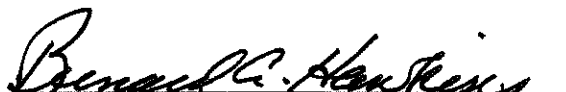
Pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties hereby agree, subject to the approval of the Commission, to the following pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-13(d) and Commission Regulation 1011:

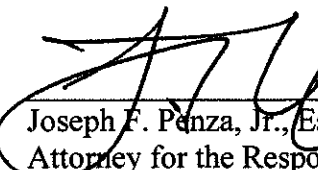
1. The Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment that the Respondent violated Commission Regulation 36-14-5014(a).

2. The Prosecution will recommend, and the Respondent agrees to pay, a civil penalty in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00).

3. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement for Complaint No. 2015-8.

  
Teresa Giusti, Esq. (Bar No. 8006)  
Commission Prosecutor  
Dated: 12/28/15

  
Bernard A. Hawkins  
Respondent  
Dated: 12/24/15

  
Joseph F. Penza, Jr., Esquire  
Attorney for the Respondent  
530 Greenwich Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02886  
Tel: (401) 737-3700  
Fax: (401) 737-5499